

WI-69
Dr. Slemons House
Quantico
Private

c. 1860

The Dr. Slemons house is one of the most prominent mid nineteenth century Greek Revival dwellings to stand in the village of Quantico. The two-story, center hall frame house survives largely intact with a well preserved exterior and interior. The front entrance is particularly distinctive with its elaborate multi-pane transom. Wide paneled pilasters trim the corners of the main house, and the rooms are lighted by large size six-over-six sash windows. The interior retains unaltered mid nineteenth century features, the most significant being the four-flight staircase. Distinguishing the area beneath the first floor stringer is a rusticated or ashlar-style wall finish that links this house stylistically with several others in town.

The house was built for Dr. Albert B. Slemons and his wife Elizabeth H. Ker, who married on December 13, 1858. The lot of land on which the house was erected was purchased in 1860 from Elizabeth's parents, Samuel and Lousia Ker, who resided next door. The house was presumably built around the time that the lot was acquired, although the rear wing may incorporate the timber frame of a slightly older structure. Albert and Elizabeth Slemons sold the property back to Louisa Ker in 1883, and Louisa Ker transferred ownership to Sallie E. Davis in 1898. The house and lot remained in Sallie Davis's hands until her death in 1940, after which it was sold to Sadie H. Taylor. The property remained in the Taylor family until the current owner purchased the house in 1988.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: DR. SLEMONS HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-69

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
- 2) Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Dr. SLEMONS HOUSE
Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland
Description continued

The hall doorways are finished with shallow pedimented surrounds that frame four-panel doors with ogee inset moldings. The north room, or parlor, features a Greek Revival mantel that frames the fireplace, and shallow pedimented surrounds trim the window and door openings.

On the south side of the hall is the dining room, which is finished in a similar fashion. The Greek Revival mantel retains a old layer of decorative graining. Plain Greek Revival pilasters support a plain frieze under a board mantel shelf. Shallow pedimented surrounds frame the original window and door openings. A later glazed door in the northwest corner opens into the rear hall.

The second floor of the front block is finished in similar fashion with wide board surrounds framing doors and windows. Greek Revival mantels remain in place in both bedrooms. The unfinished attic is entered through a board-and-batten door.

The interior of the rear wing has been reworked on the first and second floor. A Greek Revival mantel remains in the kitchen with the exposed tie beams.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-69

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic DR. SLEMONS HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6470 Main Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Quantico

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

First

state Maryland

county

Wicomico

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered
☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military

☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Michael S. Deem

street & number P. O. Box 2

telephone no.:

city, town Quantico

state and zip code

MD

21856

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Wicomico County Clerk of Court

liber

street & number

Wicomico County Courthouse

folio

city, town

Salisbury

state

MD

21802

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date

1972

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

Maryland Historical Trust

city, town

Crownsville

state

MD

21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-69

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dr. Slemons house is located at 6470 Main Street in Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1860, the two-story, center hall frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. Trimming the corners of the house are wide paneled pilasters that rise to boxed cornices. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story wing, the frame of which may be somewhat older.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and large six over-six sash windows with louvered shutters to each side. The four-panel front door is framed by three-light sidelights and a large multi-pane transom overhead. Trimming the outside edge of the entrance windows is a wide paneled surround with plain corner blocks. The second floor is pierced by three six-over-six sash windows flanked by louvered shutters.

The north and south gable ends are essentially alike with interior end brick chimney stacks flanked by six-over-six sash windows on each floor. The window openings have louvered shutters, and the gable ends are trimmed with a molded bargeboards. Lighting the attic are squarish four-pane windows.

The rear (west) elevation of the front block is partially covered by the story-and-a-half rear wing. Evidence found during the renovation of the first floor suggests that the frame of the rear wing predates the 1860s building program of the front block. When the old plaster ceiling in the kitchen was removed, whitewashed tie beams and floor boards were found. In the northeast corner a spliced beam and patched flooring was also found, leading the carpenter to believe that there had been a stair in the corner of the current kitchen which was later removed. When the front section was added around 1860 the rear wing was reworked with new trim. Rising against the west gable end of the kitchen wing is an exterior brick chimney with a fireplace facing outward into the open. It is highly likely that another section formerly extended from the back of the current kitchen, served by this wide cooking fireplace. A single story shed roofed section extends from the south side of the kitchen wing. Siding and windows on the kitchen wing have been renewed.

The interior of the front block has changed little since the mid nineteenth century. Rising in the center hall is a four-flight staircase that remains open to the attic. A bold turned newel post and smooth tapering balusters support a handrail that ramps upward before the landing posts. Below the stringer, the triangular area is treated in a distinctive ashlar-style of woodwork common to several houses in Quantico as well as in Princess Anne, in Somerset County.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-69

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Due to the high integrity and unusual architectural character of this house it deserves a listing in Category A, which identifies a structure that must be retained since it historically significant and/or exhibits many good architectural details representative of a period of architectural development and contributing uniquely and superlatively to the character and collective value of the structures within the district.

WI-69
DR. SLEMONS HOUSE
Quantico, Maryland
Chain of title

1155/694 Richard B. Taylor

to

8/29/1988 Michael Deem

AJS 870/41 Richard B. Taylor
Elizabeth W. Taylor
Sadie H. Taylor

to

12/10/1976 Richard B. Taylor
reserving the life estate for Sadie H. Taylor

AJS 853/894 Sadie H. Taylor

to

4/9/1976 Richard B. Taylor
Elizabeth W. Taylor

AJS 838/933 Sadie H. Taylor
Richard B. Taylor

to

6/20/1975 Sadie H. Taylor

837/284 Sadie H. Taylor

to

5/15/1975 Sadie H. Taylor
Richard B. Taylor

WI-69
DR. SLEMONS HOUSE
Quantico, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWS 261/160

Josephine McInerney, et al

to

5/29/1944

Sadie H. Taylor

bounded on the north by the Protestant
Episcopal Church, and used for the purpose
of a rectory

SPT 5/402

Albert B. Slemons
Elizabeth H. Slemons

to

5/16/1883

Louisa A. Ker

\$1,000.00

and being the same property which was
conveyed unto Sallie E. Davis by the said
Louisa A. Ker, 10/21/1898, JTT 22/460
(Sallie E. Davis died intestate during the
year 1940, with property descending to
Josephine McInerney, et al.

LW 6/590

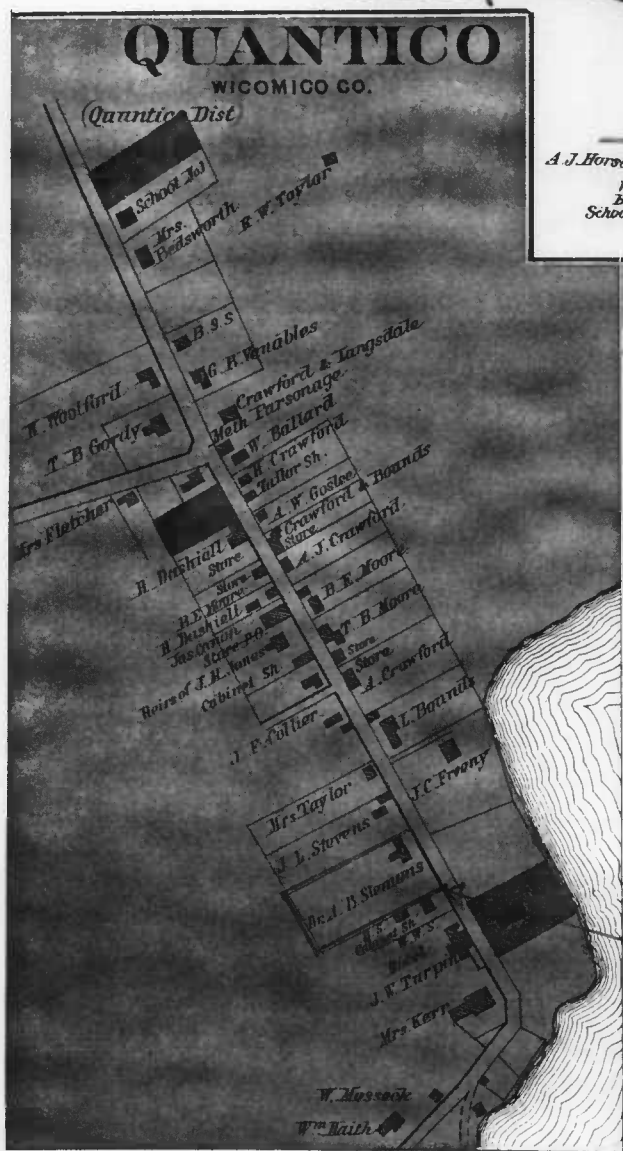
Samuel and Louisa Ker

to

4/25/1860

Elizabeth H. Slemons

Albert B. Slemons married Elizabeth H. Ker, December 13, 1858



WI-69
DR. SLEMONS HOUSE
1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas

RD LA SPRINGS)

MARYLAND

SCALE 1:31680

WI-69

DR. SLEMONS HOUSE

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle

1942

WAR DEPARTMENT

OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY

